

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for recognizing the correct spelling of a word,
the method comprising the steps of:
 receiving an indication that a word has been entered;
 automatically storing the word in a word list, in response to the
indication;
10 comparing the word to the word list;
 indicating that the word is a correctly spelled word, in response
to finding a match between the word and the word list; and
 indicating that the word is an incorrectly spelled word, in
response to failing to find a match between the word and the word list.
15 2. A computer readable medium having stored thereon
computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the word is a proper
20 name.
4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the word is an email
name.

5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of resolving the email name, wherein the indication is a message that the email name has been resolved.

5 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of resolving the email name comprises the steps of:

comparing the email name to an email name list;

finding a matching name in the email name list, the matching name sharing at least one characteristic with the email name; and

10 determining a display name associated with the matching name.

7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising the step of determining an email address associated with the matching name.

15 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the step of receiving an indication that a word has been entered, further comprises the step of determining that the email name has been entered into a TO field of an email note.

20 9. The method of Claim 7, wherein the step of automatically adding the word to a word list comprises the step of storing the display name in the word list.

25 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the word list is a dictionary.

11. The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of storing the display name in an auto-completion database.

5 12. The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of storing the display name in a smart-tags database.

13. The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of storing the display name in a smart-tags database.

13. A spell checker for determining whether an entered word is misspelled, comprising:

a custom dictionary containing a word list;

5 a message monitor for receiving an indication that a new word is available; and

an automatic word addition module operative to add the new word to the word list, in response to the message monitor receiving an indication that the new word is available;

10 wherein the indication that the new word is available is generated in response to the entry of a displayed name in a TO field of an email note.

14. The spell checker of Claim 13, wherein the indication that a new word is available is generated by an email application program.

15 15. The spell checker of Claim 14, wherein the email application enters the displayed name in the TO field, in response to receiving and resolving a new email name.

20 16. The spell checker of Claim 15, wherein the new word is the displayed name.

17. The spell checker of Claim 13, further comprising a word checking component operative to compare the entered word to the word list.

18. The spell checker of Claim 17, wherein the word checking component is further operative to indicate that the entered word is misspelled, in response to a failure to find a matching word in the word list.

5 19. The spell checker of Claim 17, wherein the word checking component is further operative to indicate that the entered word is correctly spelled, in response finding a matching word in the word list.

10 20. The spell checker of Claim 17, wherein the entered word is entered into the body of an email note.

21. The spell checker of Claim 17, wherein the entered word is entered into a word processor document.

15 22. The spell checker of Claim 13, wherein the automatic word addition module is further operative to add the new word to an auto-completion database.

20 23. The spell checker of Claim 13, wherein the automatic word addition module is further operative to add the new word to a smart-tags database.

24. An email application program for sending and receiving email notes, comprising:

an email name resolving module operative to determine a displayed name in response to receiving an entered email name;

5 a new email name reporting module operative to broadcast a new resolved name message, in response to resolving a new email name; and

an email name cache for storing the displayed name, wherein the displayed name is available for extraction from the email name cache by another module.

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25. The email application program of Claim 24, wherein the other module is a spell checker.

26. The email application program of Claim 25, wherein the
15 spell checker extracts the displayed name from the email name cache and adds the displayed name to a dictionary, in response to receiving the new resolved name message.

27. The email application program of Claim 24, wherein the
20 other module is an auto-completion module.

28. The email application program of Claim 27, wherein the auto-completion module extracts the displayed name from the email name cache and adds the displayed name to an auto-completion database, in
25 response to receiving the new resolved name message.

29. The email application program of Claim 24, wherein the other module is a smart-tags module.

- 5 30. The email application program of Claim 29, wherein the smart-tags module extracts the displayed name from the email name cache and adds the displayed name to a smart-tags database, in response to receiving the new resolved name message.

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